



DASnewsrelease

Sites in Canterbury, Griswold, Hampton, Sprague and Voluntown Removed From Consideration for State Police Training Facility

Selection process to continue with one site in Griswold and one site in Sprague

Department of Administrative Services (DAS) Commissioner Melody Currey announced today that the process for selecting a replacement site for the Connecticut State Police (CSP) firearms training facility will move forward with one site on Lee Road in Griswold, CT, and one site accessed from Westminster Road in Sprague. The remaining sites in Canterbury, Griswold, Hampton, Voluntown, and Sprague have been eliminated from consideration.

The Lee Road site is almost completely surrounded by the Pachaug State Forest. There are no residences adjacent to the parcel. The Westminster Road site features substantial forest land buffering a core area where the facility may be situated.

The Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) has been seeking a replacement site for CSP's outdated facility on the Farmington River in Simsbury. Additional space is needed to ensure Troopers' training remains current with today's public safety requirements. The site there is subject to periodic flooding and the erosion of the facility has worsened, necessitating relocation. DAS is the lead agency for the siting and later, the design and construction, of the facility.

Recently, two sites in East Windsor and Willington had been eliminated from consideration.

Earlier this year a number of property owners came forward and offered new potential sites for consideration. Those sites were discussed at community meetings held by officials from DESPP and DAS in Canterbury, Voluntown, Griswold, Hampton and Sprague in March and April. Subsequently, sites on Sand Hill Road in Hampton, at 860 Pendleton Hill Road in Voluntown and on Snyder Road in Griswold were withdrawn by the owners.

DAS and CSP staff vetted the other submitted sites in terms of their suitability for the project and then in terms of the concerns highlighted by the public at the community meetings. The result was to eliminate all but two of the sites based on proximity to residential properties as well as a variety of environmental concerns, access issues and practicalities around situating the facility on each parcel.

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DAS Commissioner Currey said, “We have listened to the affected communities and have settled on sites that are the most isolated from residential properties. While the other sites are not moving forward, we would like to thank the owners who offered their properties for consideration.”

Commissioner Schriro agreed. “We are most appreciative that all five towns participated in our Town Hall meetings. Your candid feedback about the potential range sites in combination with further assessment of the eleven sites was essential to the process, and we listened to everyone. The remaining range sites are very promising, affording both the opportunity for critical State Police training and a thickly wooded buffer around the proposed facility assuring the safety and wellbeing of nearby land owners and residents.”

The two departments will begin the public outreach process to the community so the public can stay informed and up to date with the project at these locations as the evaluation process continues. Stay tuned for additional information. DESPP and DAS will continue to listen carefully to the concerns of the community and expects to address any and all issues or concerns that are brought forward over the next phase of the project.

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